



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

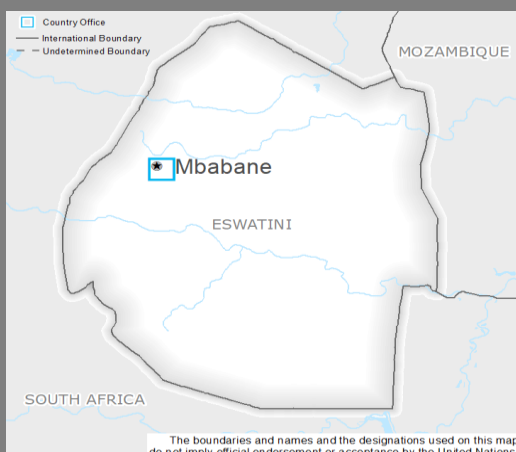
# WFP Eswatini Country Brief May 2019



## Operational Context

Despite its status as a lower middle-income country, 70 percent of the rural population live below the national poverty line and 25 percent are extremely poor. Eswatini has a very high HIV prevalence, affecting 26 percent of the population between the ages of 15-49. Life expectancy is 49 years, and 45 percent of children are orphaned or vulnerable. Chronic malnutrition is a main concern in Eswatini: stunting affects 26 percent of children under the age of five. Eswatini is vulnerable to drought in the south east. An estimated 77 percent of Swazis rely on subsistence farming for their livelihoods. An estimated 22 percent of the population has been food insecure in the past ten years.

WFP's strategic priorities in Eswatini are to improve the food and nutrition security of the most vulnerable impacted by poverty and HIV/AIDS. WFP assists the Government in creating safety nets and providing nutrition assessment, counselling, and support to people living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and pregnant and nursing women, while also supporting their families.



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **1.1 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **144 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

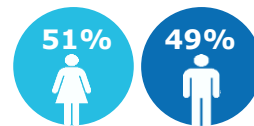
Chronic malnutrition: **26% of children between 6-59 months**

## In Numbers

**235 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 5.7 m** six months (Jun - Nov 2019) net funding requirements, representing 20 % of total

**53,319 people assisted**  
In May 2019



## Operational Updates

### HIV and Nutrition:

WFP and the Government aim to improve treatment and recovery outcomes by mainstreaming nutrition into HIV and TB support services. The programme offers nutrition assessments, counselling and support services to malnourished clients receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) and TB treatment and support to their families through a monthly household ration. Due to lack of funds, food assistance has been halted since April 2018 leaving 24,000 people without vital support, including 4,000 clients who received specific nutritional support.

### Social protection:

WFP targets the most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations throughout the year, including in response to shocks. WFP provides social safety nets for 55,000 for young orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) of pre-primary school age across Eswatini at neighbourhood care points (NCPs) through access to food and basic social services. In addition, WFP works with government to review and enhance government capacity to design and implement a sustainable, nutrition-sensitive, shock-responsive national school meals programme. The pilot for a Home-Grown School Feeding project will start in 2019 targeting 50 schools and 24,392 students.

### Lean Season Response

WFP Eswatini conducted a budget revision to make provision for the crisis response targeting 165,723 which is about 67% of the population requiring humanitarian assistance as depicted by the revised IPC figures. WFP response will consist of both in-kind and cash transfers.

Advance Financing will enable WFP Eswatini to start responding in July 2019 by reaching the most vulnerable with cash-based transfers.

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Main Photo

Credit: © WFP/Theresa Piorr  
Caption: Young boy enjoying a nutritious meal at one of Eswatini's Neighbourhood Care Points.

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-19)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>29.2 m</b>	<b>8.3 m</b>	<b>5.7 m</b>

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Children under five, ART, TB and PMTCT clients in Eswatini have improved nutritional status in line with national targets by 2022

#### Activities:

- Provide nutrition treatment services to malnourished clients on ART, TB, and/or PMTCT treatment and provide cash transfers to households of malnourished clients on ART, TB and/or PMTCT treatment
- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities responsible for the coordination and provision of nutrition services

### Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome 2:** The National Social Protection System in Eswatini is able to target and assist the most food insecure and nutritionally vulnerable populations throughout the year including in response to shocks

#### Activities:

- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities involved in social protection
- Provide nutritious meals to orphans and vulnerable children in pre-primary Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs), primary and secondary schools, including through a Home-Grown School Feeding programme
- Provide capacity strengthening and technical assistance to government entities that manage and use food security monitoring and analysis

### Strategic Result 1: Access to food

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Targeted food insecure households in Eswatini are able to meet their basic food requirements in times of shock

#### Activities:

- Provide food and cash-based transfers to targeted food insecure populations affected by shocks

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- 226 out of 298 (76%) planned NCP sites were monitored.
- Challenges in pulses procurement for May and June will affect dispatching.
- The National School Feeding Evaluation is in the data analysis stage and a draft report is expected in mid-June.

## Challenges

### El Niño and Food Security:

- Anticipated poor production due to poor seasonal performance induced by the El Niño threat, has resulted in drop in area planted and yield, which will have implications for the April 2019 - March 2020 season.
- Land area planted projected to have decreased by 36 percent compared to the 2017 / 2018 season which will lead to increased food insecurity in the country with most of the population – about 75 percent - relying on subsistence farming.

- The lean season will likely start earlier than normal. Household food stocks will not last until the next harvest; and household production capacity for the coming season will be undermined. Pressure on markets will result in higher prices as early as September 2019.
- Food insecurity situation is likely to deteriorate rapidly in areas where there is limited or no humanitarian assistance and limited social safety nets. Many households are still failing to meet their food needs heightening the need to urgent food support. Current support programmes are not adequate to meet the current demand.
- The 2019 VAA undertaken by the Eswatini VAC will provide additional information on the current situation providing specific sectoral recommendation for support. Results expected early June 2019.

### Economic Forecast:

- The Eswatini Government is currently facing fiscal challenges, which negatively impact service delivery in most sectors and vulnerability levels. Increases in commodity prices will lead further negatively impacting purchasing power especially the vulnerable groups and the poor.
- In 2018, GDP growth slowed down to 1.3 percent, from 1.6 percent in 2017 (IMF). Growth in the country has remained constrained since the 2015/2016 drought. The impact of the combination of various factors has resulted in the gradual reduction in the revenue from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and further increased public debt.
- To stimulate economic growth and recovery, the Government has launched The Kingdom of Eswatini Strategic Road Map 2018 – 2023, which will be a guiding document for the allocation of national resources to achieve key development agenda and priorities set by the Government. The road map has identified key strategic sectors of the economy (Agriculture; Energy; ICT & Education; Manufacturing & Agro-processing and Tourism). WFP seeks to support Government efforts in improving and stimulating economic growth in the country with its Country Strategic Plan.

## Zero Hunger Strategic Review

WFP and partners engaged in the development of a Zero Hunger Strategic Review that was commissioned by Government to optimize the systems to achieve zero hunger in Eswatini by 2030. A draft was finalized and has passed the technical validation. The cabinet approval is expected in June followed by a launch of the review.

## Donors

Japan, Germany, Multilateral Funds